



Pennsylvania Economic Update

November 18, 2016

Summary

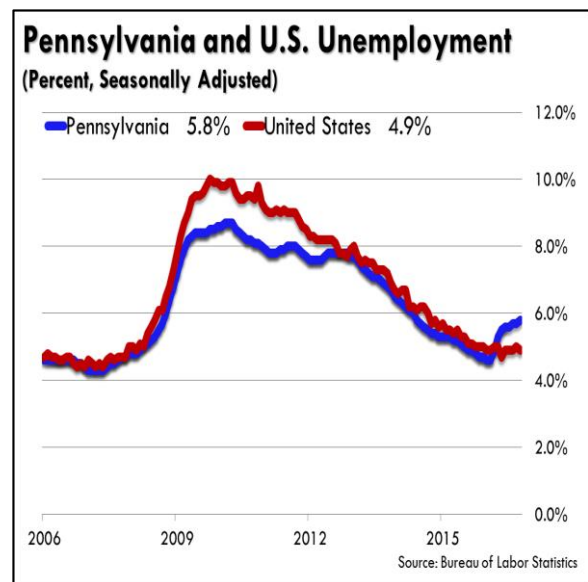
Nonfarm payroll employment in Pennsylvania declined by 1,800 jobs, and the unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Pennsylvania Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania increased by 0.1 percentage point to 5.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 4,757 in October to 375,905, while the labor force grew by 8,379 to 6,531,339. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 44 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Pennsylvania. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania stood at 4.8 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania was 8.7 percent in April 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania occurred in February 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 12.7 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania was 4.3 percent in May 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Pennsylvania occurred in May 2000 when the unemployment rate was 4.0 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Pennsylvania Payroll Employment

Pennsylvania nonfarm payrolls declined by 1,800 jobs, or 0.03 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 1,700. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Pennsylvania increased by 38,400, or 0.66 percent. Pennsylvania nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 7 of the past 12 months.

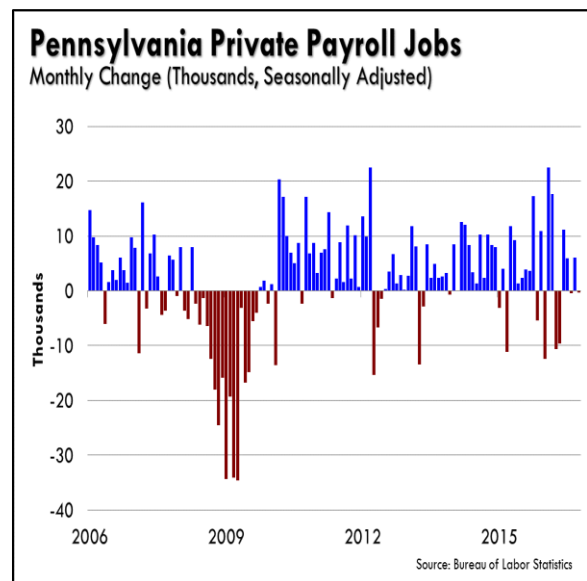
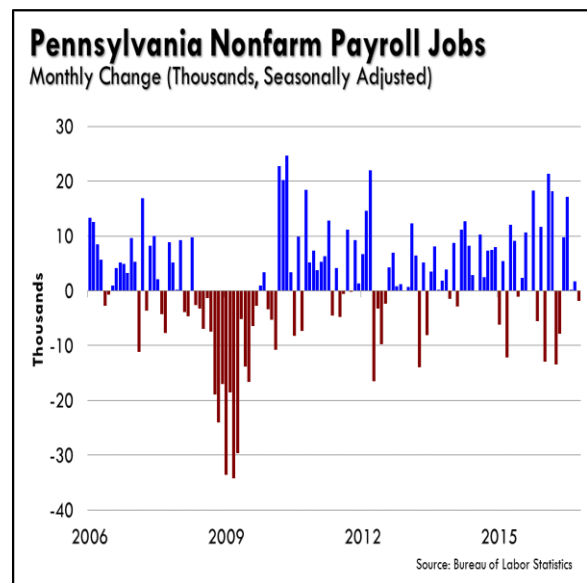
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 161,000 jobs in October, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,357,000 jobs, or 1.65 percent. Pennsylvania ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Pennsylvania private-sector payrolls declined by 300, or 0.01 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 6,100 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Pennsylvania increased by 35,300, or 0.68 percent. Pennsylvania private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 142,000 jobs in October, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,149,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent.

Pennsylvania ranks 37th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, total government payroll employment in Pennsylvania declined by 1,500, or 0.21 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 2,900, or 1.78 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 1,400, or 0.31 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 3,100, or 0.44 percent. State government payroll employment declined by 1,700, or 1.05 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 2,600, or 0.58 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,500) and Information (+1,800). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-2,000) and Total Government (-1,500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+17,700) and Professional & Business Services (+12,100). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-6,800) and Construction (-3,000).

Other Pennsylvania Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania rose to 63.5 percent in October from 63.4 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 25 have a higher labor force participation rate than Pennsylvania. The labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania was 65.3 percent in December 2008. This also represents the series high for the labor force participation rate in Pennsylvania. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 62.6 percent in September 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 58.1 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in October 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Pennsylvania civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 59.8 percent in October. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 31 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Pennsylvania. The employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania is unchanged from a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania was 61.8 percent in May 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Pennsylvania occurred in February 2001 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.1 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 57.8 percent in March 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1983 when the employment-to-population ratio was 52.1 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.1 percentage point to 59.7 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 16, 2016. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 2, 2016.

